

Listing of Claims

1-12. (cancelled)

13. (Withdrawn) A method for effectuating an automatic renewal of a registration for a domain name on behalf of a registrant, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving from a registrant a request to automatically renew a registration for a domain name, the request being received before the registration expires;
determining an expiration date for the registration;
periodically checking the registration at a predefined frequency proximate to the expiration date; and
responsive to the registration expiring, renewing the registration for the registrant.

14-32. (cancelled)

33. (Currently amended) A method for domain name management comprising:
identifying a domain name with a first registration;
identifying an interested party desiring a succeeding registration for the domain name;
monitoring a status of the first registration;
and immediately and automatically effecting the succeeding registration to the interested party when the status of the first registration indicates that the domain name is registrable, without further action by the interested party;

wherein effecting the succeeding registration includes initiating multiple, substantially contemporaneous requests to register the domain name; and further

wherein the multiple requests to register the domain name are transmitted directly to the registry via a plurality of communication channels, the communication channels being associated with multiple affiliated domain name registrars effectively acting in concert to register the domain name before any other registrar.

34-43. (cancelled)

44. (Withdrawn) A method for effecting a subsequent registration of an identification resource used to identify a node on a distributed network, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving an indication of an identification resource from an interested entity;
repeatedly checking the status of the identification resource; and

responsive to the status of the identification resource indicating that the identification resource is registrable, registering the identification resource for the interested entity.

45. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 44 wherein the identification resource is a domain name.

46. (Withdrawn) A system for domain name management and acquisition operating within a domain name registration system wherein a registry administers allocation of a domain name, a registrar issues a request to the registry for a registration of the domain name for an interested entity, the request being communicated through a secure communication channel between the registrar and the registry, and registration information is stored in a public registrar database maintained by the registrar and a public registry database maintained by the registry, the registration information including an expiration date for the registration, the system for domain name management and acquisition comprising:

a front end for receiving an indication of the domain name from the interested entity;
a processing and distribution engine to receive the indication of the domain name from the front end, determine the expiration date by querying the public registrar database and the public registry database, and instruct the acquisition array to communicate with the registry proximate to the expiration date to register the domain name for the interested entity; and an acquisition array integrated with the registrar so as to communicate with the registry via the secure communication channel.

47. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 46 wherein:

the public registry database is a registry WHOIS database; and
the public registrar database is a registrar WHOIS database.

48. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 46 further comprising an acquisition routine employed by the acquisition array: (a) to query the registry repeatedly at a predefined frequency to determine a registrability status of the domain name; and (b) to issue a command to the registry to register the domain name if the registrability status indicates the domain name is registrable.

49. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 46 wherein the front end is a Web server, and further comprising a Web page hosted by the Web server, the Web page presenting a graphical user interface to receive the indication of the domain name from the interested entity.

50. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 46 wherein the front end is an e-mail server.

51. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 46 wherein the front end is a telephone call center.

52. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 46 wherein the acquisition array is an array of computers.

53. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 46 wherein the acquisition array is a computer with multiple communication ports.

54. (Withdrawn) A system for domain name management comprising:

(a) a domain name registry for administering the allocation of a plurality of domain names within a specific domain;

(b) a registrar to communicate with the registry and change registration information for the plurality of domain names, the registration information being maintained by the registrar and the registry;

(c) a third-party agent representing an interested entity, the third-party agent coupled to the registrar and registry for ongoing monitoring of the registration information maintained by the registrar and the registry; and including means for:

taking a predetermined action as soon as practicable after a predetermined event reflected by a change in the monitored registration information.

55. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 54 wherein:

the predetermined event is an expiration of a registration for a specific domain name; and

the predetermined action is registering the specific domain name for the interested entity.

56. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 54 wherein:

the predetermined event is a change to the domain name registration information for a specific domain name; and

the predetermined action is notifying the interested entity of the change.

57. (Withdrawn) A system for domain name management comprising:

(a) a domain name registry for administering the allocation of a plurality of domain names within a specific domain;

(b) a registrar to communicate with the registry and change registration information for the plurality of domain names, the registration information being maintained by the registrar and the registry;

(c) a third-party agent representing an interested entity, the third-party agent monitoring a communication between the registrar and the registry to make a change to the registration information; and including means for taking a predetermined action as soon as

practicable after a predetermined event reflected by the change to the registration information.

58. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 57 wherein:
the predetermined event is a deletion of a registration for a specific domain name; and
the predetermined action is registering the specific domain name for the interested entity.

59. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 57 wherein the predetermined action is notifying the interested entity of the change to the registration information.

60. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 57 wherein the registrar notifies the third-party agent of the communication between the registrar and the registry.

61. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 57 wherein the registry notifies the third-party agent of the communication between the registrar and the registry.

62. (Withdrawn) A domain name registration system comprising:
(a) input means for receiving an indication of a domain name; and
(b) an acquisition engine coupled to the input means and integrated with a domain name registrar having access to a domain name registry so as to enable the acquisition engine to determine a status of the indicated domain name.

63. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 62 wherein the acquisition engine further includes an acquisition routine to register the indicated domain name if the status indicates that the indicated domain name is registrable.

64-68. (cancelled)

69. (Withdrawn) A method for domain name management comprising the steps of:
receiving from an interested entity a request to monitor a domain name registration maintained by a registry;

monitoring a current status of the domain name registration;
detecting that the domain name registration has expired;
determining a deletion time period during which the domain name is expected to delete from the registry; and

during the expected deletion time period but prior to deletion, requesting a new registration of the domain name to succeed the expired domain name registration.

70. (Withdrawn) A method for domain name management according to claim 69 wherein the monitoring step includes monitoring database records maintained by the registry in association with the said domain name registration.

71. (Withdrawn) A method for domain name management according to claim 69 wherein the monitoring step includes monitoring expiration information maintained by a sponsoring registrar in association with the said domain name registration.

72. (Withdrawn) A method for domain name management comprising the steps of:
receiving from an interested entity a request to acquire a domain name registration maintained by a registry;

detecting that the domain name registration has expired;

estimating a deletion time at which the domain name is expected to delete from the registry; and

prior to the estimated deletion time, requesting a new registration of the domain name to succeed the expired domain name registration, thereby acquiring the domain name prior to deletion from the registry.

73. (Withdrawn) A method for domain name management according to claim 72 and further comprising transferring the new registration of the domain name to an interested entity.

74. (Withdrawn) A method for domain name management according to claim 72 and further comprising auctioning the new registration of the domain name among interested entities.

75. (Withdrawn) A method for domain name management comprising the steps of:
receiving from an interested entity a request to monitor an existing domain name registration maintained by a registry;

obtaining a list of deleting domain names maintained by the registry associated with an upcoming deletion date; and

if the existing domain name registration is on the deletion list, prior to actual deletion of the existing domain name registration, requesting a new registration of the domain name to succeed the expired domain name registration.

76. (Withdrawn) A method for domain name management according to claim 75 wherein said obtaining a list comprises downloading a list of deleting names associated with an upcoming delete date.

77. (Withdrawn) A method for domain name management according to claim 75 wherein said obtaining a list comprises querying registrar and or registry databases.

78. (Withdrawn) A method for domain name management according to claim 75 wherein said obtaining a list comprises electronically receiving a published list of deleting names associated with an upcoming delete date.

79. (Withdrawn) A method for domain name management according to claim 75 wherein said requesting a new registration comprises sending an add command to the registry.

80. (Withdrawn) A method for domain name management according to claim 75 wherein the new registration request succeeds and further comprising auctioning the new registration among interested entities.

81. (Withdrawn) A method for domain name management according to claim 75 wherein the new registration request succeeds and further comprising auctioning the new registration among the entities that requested monitoring of the existing domain name before the prior registration deleted.

82. (Withdrawn) A method for domain name management according to claim 75 wherein the new registration request succeeds and further comprising auctioning the new registration among entities including entities that express interest after the new registration is completed.

83. (Withdrawn) A pre-deletion method of domain name management comprising:
identifying a registered domain name of interest, wherein the identified domain name is sponsored by a domain name registrar; and
prior to purge of the domain name registration from the corresponding registry, re-allocating the domain name to a selected entity, whereby the domain name is not deleted by the registry.

84. (Withdrawn) A pre-deletion method of domain name management according to claim 83 wherein said identifying step comprises receiving a back order request for the registered domain name from an entity.

85. (Withdrawn) A pre-deletion method of domain name management according to claim 83 wherein said identifying step comprises receiving an indication of interest in the registered domain name from an entity.

86. (Withdrawn) A pre-delete method of domain name management comprising:
identifying a registered domain name of interest, wherein the identified domain name has a current registration sponsored by a domain name registrar and maintained in a registry;
receiving multiple backorders from interested entities for a new registration of the domain name;
auctioning the domain name among the interested entities; and then
reallocating the domain name registration to the winner of the auction so that the domain name registration is not deleted by the registry.

87. (Withdrawn) A pre-delete method of domain name management according to claim 86 wherein the auction is conducted prior to the current registration entering a “pending delete” status.

88. (Currently amended) A method ~~according to claim 33~~ for domain name management comprising:

identifying a domain name with a first registration;

identifying an interested party desiring a succeeding registration for the domain name;

monitoring a status of the first registration;

immediately and automatically effecting the succeeding registration to the interested party as soon as possible after the status of the first registration indicates that the domain name is registrable, without further action by the interested party,

further comprising wherein said immediately and automatically effecting the succeeding registration includes determining an expected deletion date for the first registration;

defining a time period on or about the expected deletion date for monitoring the status; and

periodically checking the status within the time period so as to detect the domain name status change as soon as possible after it occurs.

89. (Canceled)

90. (Currently amended) A method according to claim [[89]] 88, wherein said checking includes checking the status at a predefined frequency during the time period.

91. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 90, further comprising:
predicting an earliest moment of registrability for the domain name based on the expected deletion date; and

increasing the frequency of said checking, proximate to the predicted earliest moment of registrability.

92. (Currently amended) A method according to claim [[89]] 88, wherein said checking includes pinging a registrar.

93. (Currently amended) A method according to claim [[89]] 88, wherein said checking includes substantially contemporaneous pinging of multiple registrars.

94. (Currently amended) A method according to claim [[89]] 88, wherein said checking includes pinging a registry.

95. (Currently amended) A method according to claim [[89]] 88, wherein said checking includes receiving a communication pushed from a registrar.

96. (Currently amended) A method according to claim ~~[[89]]~~ 88, wherein said checking includes receiving a communication ~~pushed~~ from a registry.

97. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 33, wherein:
the interested party is a registrant of the domain name; and
said effecting of the succeeding registration includes requesting a renewal of the registered status of the domain name for the registrant.

98. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 33, wherein said effecting of the succeeding registration includes requesting registration to an escrow entity, and further comprising:

transferring the registration from the escrow entity to the interested party.

99. –106. (Canceled.)

107. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 33, wherein the succeeding registration is to an escrow agent, and further comprising:

identifying a second interested party; and

auctioning the succeeding registration between the interested party and the second interested party.

108. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 107, wherein said auctioning includes identifying one of the interested party and the second interested party as a winner, and further comprising:

transferring the succeeding registration from the escrow agent to the winner.

109. (Currently amended) A method according to claim ~~[[107]]~~ 33, wherein the succeeding registration is to an escrow, and further comprising:

identifying a second interested party; and then further comprising

auctioning the succeeding registration among multiple entities that have requested monitoring of the existing domain name before the prior registration deleted.

110. (Currently amended) A method according to claim ~~[[107]]~~ 33, further comprising auctioning the succeeding registration among multiple entities expressing interest in the domain name after the succeeding registration is effected.

111. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 33, wherein the first registration is maintained by a registry, and further comprising:

determining a deletion time period during which the first registration is expected to delete from the registry; and

during the deletion time period but prior to deletion from the registry, requesting a next registration of the domain name to succeed the first registration.

112. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 111 wherein said monitoring includes monitoring database records maintained by the registry in association with said first registration.

113. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 111 wherein said monitoring includes monitoring expiration information maintained by a sponsoring registrar in association with the said first registration.

114. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 33, wherein the first registration is maintained by a registry, and further comprising:

detecting that the first registration has expired;

estimating a deletion time at which the domain name is expected to delete from the registry; and

prior to the estimated deletion time, requesting a new registration of the domain name to succeed the first registration.

115. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 33, wherein the first registration is maintained by a registry, and further comprising:

obtaining a list of deleting domain names maintained by the registry associated with an upcoming deletion date; and

if the first registration is on the list, prior to actual deletion of the first registration, requesting a new registration of the domain name to succeed the first registration.

116. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 115, wherein said obtaining of the list includes querying a registrar database.

117. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 33, wherein the first registration is maintained by a registry, and said effecting of the succeeding registration includes sending an add command to the registry.

118. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 33, wherein the first registration is maintained by a registry and sponsored by a registrar, and further comprising:

prior to a purge of the first registration from the registry, re-allocating the domain name to a selected entity, whereby the domain name is not deleted by the registry.

119. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 118, wherein the selected entity is the interested party.

120. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 118, wherein the selected entity is an escrow agent.

121. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 118, further comprising:
identifying a second interested party; and

auctioning the succeeding registration between the interested party and the second interested party.

122. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 121 wherein said auctioning is conducted prior to the first registration entering a “pending delete” status.

123. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 33, wherein said identifying comprises receiving a back order request for the domain name from the interested party.

124. (Currently amended) A system for domain name management comprising:
a means for identifying a domain name with a first registration;
a means for identifying an interested party desiring a succeeding registration for the domain name;
a means for monitoring a status of the first registration; and
a means for automatically effecting the succeeding registration when the status of the first registration indicates that the domain name is registrable
wherein effecting the succeeding registration includes initiating multiple, substantially contemporaneous requests to register the domain name.

125. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 124, wherein:
the domain name is sponsored by a registrar having access to a registry that maintains the first registration;
said means for identifying the domain name includes an input means for receiving an indication of the domain name; and
said means for monitoring the status of the first registration includes an acquisition array coupled to the input means and integrated with the registrar so as to enable the acquisition array to determine the status of the first registration and to immediately effect registration of the domain name when the status indicates that the domain name is registrable;
wherein the acquisition array implements a plurality of communication connections directly into the registry, the communication connections being associated with a plurality of different cooperating domain name registrars.

126. (canceled).

127. (New) A method for domain name management comprising:
identifying a domain name having a first registration in a registry;
identifying an interested party desiring a succeeding registration for the domain name;

monitoring a status of the first registration so as to detect availability of the domain name for a new registration immediately after the name becomes available for registration; and

responsive to detecting availability of the domain name for a new registration, immediately and automatically effecting the succeeding registration to the interested party, without further action by the interested party;

wherein said effecting the succeeding registration includes asserting a plurality of commands to the registry by means of a plurality of communication connections directly into the registry, the communication connections being associated with multiple different cooperating domain name registrars so as to increase the likelihood of obtaining the succeeding registration before any non-cooperating domain name registrar.

128. (New) A method according to claim 33, and further comprising transmitting identification of the soon-to-be-deleted domain name to an acquisition array.

129. (New) A method according to claim 128 wherein the acquisition array is located at a Registrar's site.

130. (New) A method according to claim 128 wherein said effecting the succeeding registration includes executing a series of INFO and ADD commands via the said communication connections to the registry.